



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Southwest Region

April, 2012



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a text file or, if generated in a word processor, saved in .RTF format).

Images must be in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 by 900 pixels.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

1. The article's author,
2. Photographer, and
3. Any person mentioned in the article.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

News Highlights From Around the Region

In the first quarter of 2012, SWR continued to advise and support its member wings in the accomplishment of their mission. Texas Wing earned an overall successful rating on its USAF Compliance Inspection. Wings were busy with training, cadet competition, and missions. Individual accomplishments included two Texas Wing brothers earning the Spaatz award within weeks of each other. There was excitement in Oklahoma, asked to assist with security during a presidential visit. Also, the traveling NASA exhibit of the Orion crew module stopped in Oklahoma and Texas. The Congressional Gold Medal initiative for WWII CAP volunteers is closer to getting approval.

To avoid errors or omissions, I've asked each wing PAO to send in a summary of notable events. They are posted below in the order in which they were received, with my thanks.

Louisiana Wing ran a Squadron Leadership School and a Corporate Learning Course. The Wing Cadet Competition took place on Feb. 18-19, at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, La. – the Lake Charles Composite Squadron took first place in Color Guard. During a wing-wide SAREX in February, the wing assisted local SAR agencies in the search for an elderly man. A Group Three SAREX was held in early March. The annual La. Wing conference and Awards Banquet was held in Alexandria, La. on March 23-25.

Arkansas Wing conducted a Squadron Leadership School at the 120th Composite Squadron in January. Winter skills and rescue training conducted with several other agencies in Franklin County on the weekend of Feb. 17-19 was a success. The Wing flew air sorties as part of a SAREX in coordination with the multi-agency drill. The Wing Cadet Competition took place at Camp Robinson near North Little Rock on March 17-18. On March 23-25, Wing members participated in a joint SAREX with Oklahoma Wing in the Muskogee, Okla. area.

Arizona Wing welcomed its new commander, Col Brian N. Ready on Jan. 7, 2012 at the recently built CAP hangar in Glendale, Ariz. Wing members turned out in force for Arizona Aviation Day at the State Capitol. Cadets in the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron had a surprise opportunity to view the Marine One helicopter during a recent presidential visit to Phoenix. Cadet activities during the quarter included a Drug Demand Reduction event and a cadet competition.

Oklahoma Wing supported a presidential visit to the state with aircrews and communications. The wing hosted a joint SAREX with Arkansas wing in Muskogee, Okla., attended by 100+ members from both wings. Furthering the wing's AE mission, cadets viewed NASA's Orion crew module as it stopped on its way to Kennedy Space Center, Fla. The wing also hosted an NRA marksmanship qualifier in Norman that was well attended by cadets.

Texas Wing achieved a Successful overall rating in its Compliance Inspection, with five sections earning Highly Successful. At the annual Cadet Competition, Sheldon Cadet Squadron won in Drill Team, and Pegasus Composite Squadron won in Color Guard. In March, an Area Command Exercise was held with ten staging areas across the state and GIIEP training in San Antonio. SLS/CLC training was conducted, and wing members continued to generate support for CAP's Congressional Gold Medal Initiative. Three cadets earned their Spaatz award, two of them brothers.

New Mexico Wing cadets, during the State Legislature's "Military Day" observance, posted colors in the chamber of the state House of Representatives and at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda attended by Governor Susana Martinez. The wing's Legislative Squadron now boasts 59 members. The Wing held SLS and CLC training, conducted a multi-agency AOB course serving agencies from throughout the state, and a January SAREX provided ES member training. Wing personnel were activated for four REDCAPs during the quarter.

To everyone, our congratulations. 🇺🇸

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Safety is Priority One

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/
- **Safety is our Number One Priority.**

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

▪ **Which Articles Are Best?**

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

▪ **Do I Submit Photos?**

Whenever possible, include images with your article. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

▪ **If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions**

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to make a comment about the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com 🇺🇸

College CERT Benefits from Arkansas Wing Spaatz Cadet's Experience

*by Maj. Jonathan VerHoeven, CAP,
Arkansas Wing*

SPRINGDALE, Ark. – When Cadet Col. Jeffrey VerHoeven of the 115th Composite Squadron began his studies at College of the Ozarks (near Branson, Mo.) in August 2011, he knew he would need to put his Civil Air Patrol (CAP) career on hold until summer breaks. He did not realize that he would soon be recruited to help lead and organize the southern Missouri institution's new Disaster and Incident Response Team, known as DIRT.

Right: Cadet Col. Jeffrey VerHoeven
(Photo: Capt. Jon D. VerHoeven, CAP)

VerHoeven, a 17-year-old freshman criminal justice major from Springdale, began attending team meetings just a few weeks after arriving on campus. He approached the team director and faculty advisor, David Vogt, with an idea for designing a team shirt. Vogt, an assistant professor of criminal justice and 10-year police veteran, agreed to allow VerHoeven and a classmate to oversee the project, and by the time they had completed it, he had appointed VerHoeven as a student leader. "I could tell he had leadership abilities that we needed in DIRT," Vogt said.

VerHoeven's CAP experience helped him fit easily into the role. "My natural impulse is to jump in and help when an emergency arises. This, plus the calling I felt to follow a law-enforcement career, contributed to my getting involved with CAP emergency services as a cadet," VerHoeven said. "My leadership experience in the cadet program gave me the skills necessary to help manage DIRT as well as coordinate with local emergency officials. Also, experience on the job with the CAP ground team gave me the technical expertise to accomplish the mission."

Early on, Vogt realized that DIRT would need nationally-recognized training credentials in order to be allowed to participate during a disaster, and he settled on Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) as the model for the college team. VerHoeven had received his CERT qualifications with the 115th in 2008, but went through the training again with DIRT when fifteen students and three faculty members completed it on campus in September, 2011. DIRT members also took individual FEMA Incident Command System tests online, and completed storm spotter training with the National Weather Service on Feb. 23, 2012.





Some DIRT members after a hard day's work: Kim Cooper, Leslie Babcox, Aaron Phillips, Zach Knerr, Cassie Alexander, Denae Churchill, Shelby Otto. (Courtesy photo: Mr. David Vogt)

Less than a week later, a tornado ripped through the city of Branson, just across Lake Taneycomo from the College of the Ozarks campus in Point Lookout, Mo. The tornado was the last of seven to touch down in Southwest and South-Central Missouri on the night of Feb. 28-29. According to the National Weather Service office in Springfield, it began near Kimberling City, about six miles west of Branson at 1:13 a.m. and tracked east, its winds fluctuating between EF-1 and EF-2 speeds and reaching an estimated maximum of between 120 and 130 mph. The tornado entered Branson and began following 76 Country Boulevard, the city's famed "strip." Some 400 yards wide, the twister crossed the road numerous times, destroying businesses and homes on its way downtown, where it struck the Hilton hotel and the Branson Landing. It then continued east, hitting more housing developments and an apartment complex before lifting two miles east of Kisse Mills at 1:32. It had covered 22 miles in just 19 minutes, registering ground speeds greater than 60 mph. Incredibly, there were no fatalities.

The tornado's track down 76 Country Boulevard took it within two miles of College of the Ozarks, where the student body had taken shelter in dormitory basements. Shortly after 10:00 that morning, VerHoeven was in class with Vogt when the professor received a phone call from the Taney County CERT coordinator. Local emergency services needed DIRT to report to the

Branson Fire Department for duty. Vogt immediately canceled class, and the team was on its way in 45 minutes.

Right: The team ready for action. At far right, Cadet Col. VerHoeven.
(Courtesy photo Mr. David Vogt)

Below: Mr. David Voigt, organizer of the emergency services student team.
(Photo: Cdt. Col. Jeffrey VerHoeven)

DIRT deployed to a neighborhood near 76 Country Boulevard and U.S. Highway 65, behind First Baptist Church and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. "This area sustained a direct hit. Damage was extensive,"

said Vogt. Prior experiences had helped prepare VerHoeven for the chaotic scene. As he explained it, "Having lived through the aftermaths of the tornados in Cincinnati, Ark. and Joplin, Mo. nothing I saw really surprised me, but it was different to see damage in the town where I live. Still, those experiences helped me get past the initial shock and deal with the job at hand."

Vogt said, "On the first day, we were assigned to conduct wellness checks. We contacted people in each house in the area and checked on their well-being, finding out if they needed any critical items such as medication, food, water, shelter, or medical services." An elderly woman needed power for her supplemental oxygen generator. She had a gasoline-powered generator to keep it running, but had no reserve supply of fuel. Vogt said, "Our team made sure that someone from the local church took care of that, with periodic checks. This was just one example of how the students served on that first day." DIRT also deployed on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday to

conduct damage assessments in multiple neighborhoods.

VerHoeven led two of these deployments in Vogt's absence.

DIRT's performance earned the team high praise from the Branson and Taney County first responders. Vogt looks forward to expanding the team's training to include CPR, Automated Electronic Defibrillator, and HAM radio certifications. He also intends to pursue the original goal of integrating student nurses and firefighters into DIRT, joining the criminal justice students.

VerHoeven will remain a leader in the team. "Jeffrey is continuing to take a leadership role in the operation, formation, and development of the DIRT program," said Vogt. "He has leadership qualities and training that are difficult to find, and I am excited that he has chosen to use those skills within DIRT. I can see that his confidence and leadership ability have been cultured and developed within the Civil Air Patrol. His leadership and professionalism show the great work you do in the Civil Air Patrol." VerHoeven joined CAP in 2006 and earned his Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award in 2010. 🇺🇸





(L-R) U.S. Congressman Ted Poe, Cadet Col. Daniel Shellhouse and Texas Wing Commander Col. Brooks Cima. (Photo: Capt. Glenn Shellhouse, CAP)

Texas Wing Cadet Earns Highest CAP Award

by Capt. Glenn Shellhouse, CAP, Texas Wing

KINGWOOD, Texas – On Feb. 20, 2012, friends, family and Civil Air Patrol officials gathered to celebrate as Congressman Ted Poe presented Cadet Col. Daniel Shellhouse with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, the highest achievement attainable in the CAP cadet program. On average, only 2 cadets out of a thousand merit the Spaatz Award, and 67 Texas Wing cadets have earned the award since it was established in 1964.

To earn the award cadets must devote approximately five years to completing all sixteen achievements within the CAP cadet program. They must then pass a series of rigorous exams that measure their physical fitness, character development, leadership ability and aerospace knowledge.

Now in his sixth year of service with the Kingwood-based Marauder Composite Squadron, Shellhouse has focused on community service and aerospace studies. Through attending CAP flight academies he earned his solo flight wings in both gliders and single-engine aircraft, and then earned an FAA private pilot's certificate at age 17.

After the ceremony, Shellhouse said, "This award has really humbled me. While the Spaatz award is presented to one cadet, I do not feel like it is an individual award. I believe it reflects the support, guidance and strength of an entire community, both in CAP and elsewhere."

A month later, Shellhouse, a senior at Kingwood High School, received an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy's class of 2016, and will report for Basic Cadet Training in June of this year. This represents the culmination of Cadet Shellhouse's life-long dream. 🇺🇸



The Lake Charles Composite Squadron Color Guard, overall winners. Front Row: (L to R) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kyle Lewis, Right Guard, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Austin Doucet, Commander, Cadet Airman 1st Class Jocelyn Fontenot, Squadron Flag Bearer, and Cadet Master Sgt. Alex Doucet, Left Guard. Back Row: Cadet Airman 1st Class Sam Willis, Alternate.

Louisiana Wing Color Guard Competition

by 1st Lt. Jennifer Doucet, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BARKSDALE AFB, La. – The Louisiana Wing Color Guard Competition held February 18-19, 2012 at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, La., is an important yearly cadet event. Five teams competed for the Louisiana Wing title and the opportunity to advance to regional competition. The competition consisted of seven events including a mile run, a written test, a quiz bowl, a uniform inspection, and three drill routines. Judging was conducted by members of the Barksdale Air Force Base Honor Guard.

The Lake Charles Composite Squadron's Color Guard Team won six first place medals and the overall Louisiana Wing title. They placed first in the quiz bowl, uniform inspection, standard drill, and indoor practical drill. The Ascension Composite Squadron took Second Place, with the Pontchartrain Composite Squadron coming in third.

Teams that competed in the Louisiana Wing Color Guard Finals were: Ascension Composite Squadron, Barksdale Composite Squadron, Capital City Composite Squadron, Lake Charles Composite Squadron and Pontchartrain Composite Squadron. 🇺🇸



(Photo: 1st Lt. Carol Collins, CAP)

Arkansas Wing's 95th Composite Squadron in Cadet Competition

by 1st Lt. Carol Collins, CAP, Arkansas Wing

CAMP ROBINSON, Ark. – On March 10, 2012, the Texarkana Composite Squadron was one of two units to field a color guard team in the Cadet Competition at Camp Robinson, Ark. The competition brought out the best in both teams, who performed to the best of their ability.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Speer held her own against her counterpart from the 42nd Composite Squadron, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kimberly Hogan. After the written exam and the quiz bowl, the entire 95th team, composed of Cadet Airman Basic Adam Turner, Cadet Tech Sgt. Sam Brown, Cadet Tech Sgt. Skylar Harbin and Cadet Airman 1st Class Matthew Resendez all agreed that they ought to have studied harder.

Since both teams had been well prepared, it was a close contest, with the cadets trying their best. Thanks to a bright and sunny day, the teams enjoyed perfect weather for the outdoor practical flag raising ceremony. Spectators thought that at that point it was a virtual tie.

Although it appeared that the 95th Composite Squadron was the winner in the outdoor standard drill, the 42nd Composite Squadron won both the quiz bowl and the mile run, thus taking the lead and winning the competition by a narrow margin.

The teams' senior member advisors – Maj. Miguel Rivera from the 42nd Composite Squadron and Maj. John Gender from the 95th Composite Squadron – had spent much time and effort preparing their respective teams. In the end, both teams and spectators were richly rewarded. 🇺🇸



(L-R) Exiting Wing Commander Col. John Eggen, incoming Wing Commander Col. Brian Ready and Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank Buethe. (All photos courtesy Kim Stevens)

Arizona Wing Change of Command Ceremony

by Capt Cindy E. Beck, CAP, Arizona Wing

GLENDAL, Ariz. – On Jan. 7, 2012, Col. Brian Ready assumed Command of Arizona Wing at a Change of Command Ceremony. Col. Ready succeeds Col. John Eggen, who commanded the Wing since 2008, having served as the wing's 31st commander.

Awards recognizing the service of Col. Eggen and Lt Col. Robert Ditch, the wing's Emergency Services Director, were also presented during the ceremony.

When the moment came, Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank Buethe accepted the wing flag from the exiting commander, CAP Col. John Eggen, and passed it on to CAP Lt. Col. Brian Ready, who took it in his hands with the words, "Sir, I accept command." An ancient ceremony had once again taken place, symbolizing the orderly transfer of command.

After the group photo was taken, Ready was promoted to Colonel in Civil Air Patrol, and it was his turn to speak to those present and all of Arizona Wing. In a humorous aside, Col. Ready called Col. Eggen to the podium and presented him with a model Cessna 182 painted in CAP colors, charging the exiting commander with the "maintenance and upkeep of the aircraft."

He then turned to the matter at hand and said, "Today starts a new chapter for Arizona Wing and we have many opportunities ahead of us. Our most valuable asset is our membership. Recruiting new members and retaining current personnel is always a challenge in any organization, especially for volunteers."

Having been the wing vice commander until promoted to wing commander, he fully appreciates the importance of morale and esprit-de-corps. "A fun wing is a happy wing," he said, and a happy wing will make recruiting and retention easier. We must continue to mentor our members, and concentrate on the positive."



west Region, April 2012

Speaking about motivation, he put himself as an example, as he remarked, "I'll tell you what fires me up. The opportunity to lead the best group of volunteers I have ever had the honor to be associated with, and to have the opportunity to support the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow."

Left: Col. Brian Ready accepts the wing flag from SWR Commander Col. Frank

Below: Col. John Eggen is much amused about his having to maintain and take care of his new aircraft, a model Cessna 182 painted in CAP colors.

In closing, he thanked all the CAP dignitaries, Air Force personnel, Arizona Wing members, family and friends for, "Coming out on a beautiful Saturday morning to this change of command. Your support of Civil Air Patrol is very much appreciated."

The event was held at the new CAP hangar, which opened last fall at the Glendale Municipal Airport. The Color Guard from the 308th Composite Squadron presented the colors.

The following national and local dignitaries were present:

National CAP Vice Commander Brigadier General Joseph Vasquez, 56th Fighter Wing

(Luke AFB) Commander USAF Brig. Gen. Jerry Harris, Arizona Air National Guard Director of Standing Joint Forces Brig. Gen. Jose Salinas, 355th Operations Group (Davis-Monthan AFB) Commander USAF Col. Sam Milam, CAP Southwest Region (SWR) Commander Col. Frank Buethe, CAP SWR Vice Commander Col. John Varljen, and 56th Civil Engineering Squadron (Luke AFB) Commander USAF Lt. Col. Chad Bondurant.

Also present were CAP SWR Chief of Staff Lt. Col. James Quick, Arizona Air National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Kristin Bronson, Arizona Division of Emergency Management Assistant Director Mr. Chuck McHugh; CAP Arizona Wing State Air Force Liaison Lt. Col. Michael Holm (Ret), Mrs. Stephanie Eggen, Mrs. Sindy Ready, Mr. Tom and Patricia Callaghan, Doctor Norris Ready, Mrs. Leslie Ready, and Ms. Lynn Silbiger. 🇺🇸





Top: NASA astronaut John Herrington (center) with Cleveland County Composite Squadron Cadets at Science Museum Oklahoma's Orion display.

Left: Cadets sign their names on a piece of Orion hardware. (Courtesy photos: Mrs. Chris Walker)



Oklahoma Wing Cadets View Orion Spacecraft

*by 1st Lt. Dan Arnold, CAP,
Oklahoma Wing*

NORMAN, Okla. – On Jan. 24, 2012, Civil Air Patrol cadets from Oklahoma Wing's Cleveland County Composite Squadron were presented a unique opportunity as the test version of NASA's Orion crew module made a two-day stop in Oklahoma City on its journey from White Sands, N. M. to Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

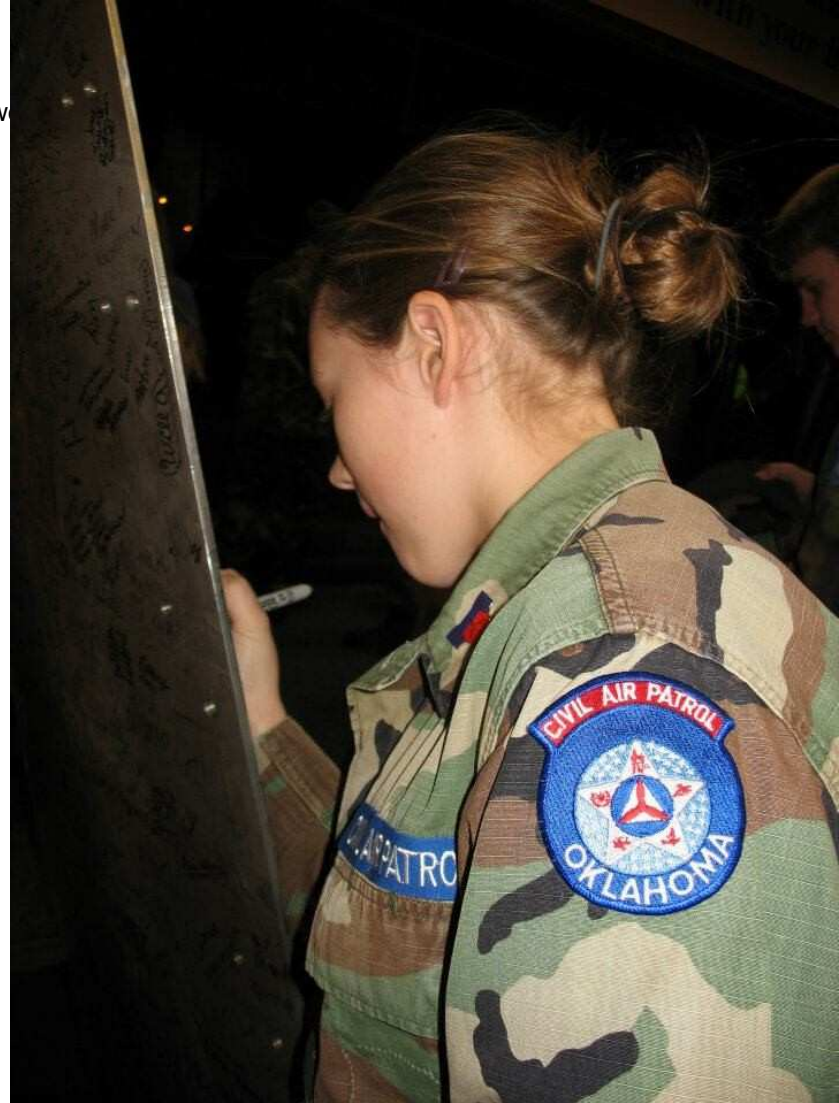
Undeterred by a light drizzle, the cadets were allowed to examine the crew module on display outside Science Museum Oklahoma. Inside the museum, there were short film clips detailing the testing phases of the crew module, including the launch abort system, water landing, and parachute tests. Two of the crew module's outer panels were

also on display, and visitors were encouraged to sign their names to an actual piece of NASA hardware.

However, there was an even bigger surprise in store: Oklahoma native and NASA astronaut John Herrington was there to relate his experiences as a Mission Specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on mission STS-113, NASA's sixteenth space shuttle mission. He is a retired U.S. Navy Commander. Later, after the crowds had thinned, Commander Herrington graciously took the cadets aside for a private question and answer session, followed by group photographs.

"We were very fortunate," commented CAP Capt. Francis McHale, Cleveland County Composite Squadron's commander. "The crew capsule was only in Oklahoma City for two days and had arrived with no publicity. One of our senior members happened to drive by and realized what was sitting in the parking lot, so that evening we had a call-down and got the cadets up there the next evening."

That evening, one of Commander Herrington's comments was particularly noteworthy. Gesturing toward the audience, he said that with the current pace of space exploration, some of the younger people present could one day be members of the planned Mars expeditions. Civil Air Patrol is a firm first step towards that lofty journey. 🇺🇸





Squadron members stand in front of the Orion test crew module. (L-R) Capt. Ray Hicks, Cadet 2nd Lt. Garrett Porter, Cadet Staff Sgt. Carolyn Stelling, Cadet Airman Basic James Peek, Cadet Staff Sgt. Sara Robinson, and 1st Lt. Julie Robinson.

Texas Wing Squadron Visits NASA's Traveling Orion Crew Module

by Capt. Kelly Castillo, CAP, Texas Wing

MESQUITE, Texas – On Feb. 28, 2012, members of the Black Sheep Composite Squadron enjoyed an out-of-this-world field trip at the American Airlines Center in Dallas.

The test version of NASA's Orion spacecraft's crew module went on tour for public viewing, covering only three states. The scheduled tour of the test crew module started in White Sands, N.M., continued on to Oklahoma City, Huntsville, Ala., Dallas, and ended at its final destination at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

On-site to answer questions were NASA officials, including engineers, astronauts, and other NASA spokespersons.

"This event marks our fourth aerospace activity this year," said CAP Capt. Hicks, who is in charge of aerospace education for the squadron.

The general public was also given the opportunity to sign their name or personal message on one of the module panels.

"The space module was amazing," said Cadet 2nd Lt. Garrett Porter. "Just the design alone was cool. We got to talk to someone from NASA, and then I signed the module panel."



Above: The Orion test crew module makes a scheduled stop in Dallas. **Right:** Cadet Staff Sgt. Stelling signs a module panel that will be displayed at the Kennedy Space Center. (All photos: 1st Lt. Julie Robinson, CAP)

Unlike the space shuttles – that were designed for low-earth orbits of no more than two weeks – the actual Orion spacecraft, designed by Lockheed Martin, will be able to conduct long-range missions to the Moon, near-Earth asteroids, Mars, and the gravitational zone outside of Earth’s atmosphere known as the Lagrangian points (also called Lagrange points, L-points, and libration points).

Lagrangian points are the stationary solutions of the circular restricted three-body problem, where an object will remain in place by having found a point of equilibrium between the gravitational pull of two celestial bodies. The spacecraft is also planned as a backup vehicle to the International Space Station.

An unmanned test flight, which is scheduled for 2014, will be carried aboard the Delta IV Heavy-Lift Launch rocket and will orbit the Earth twice. The crew module will be capable of maintaining life support for four astronauts for up to 210 days. 🇺🇸





(L-R) Lt. Col. Ed Angala, Mission Incident Commander, and Maj. James Beauchamp, Mission Communications Leader.
(Photo: Capt. Rick Rutledge, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Supports Presidential Visit to Oklahoma

by Capt. Rick Rutledge, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TINKER AFB, Okla. – On March 22, 2012, volunteer members of Oklahoma's Civil Air Patrol were called upon to support Homeland Security during President Obama's visit to Cushing, Okla. U.S. First Air Force officials requested support for their radio communications and with tracking potential threats to the presidential entourage.

Launching two aircraft from University of Oklahoma Westheimer Airpark in Norman with a mission base located at Stillwater Regional Airport, Civil Air Patrol and an on-board United States Air Force Air Battle Director were able to successfully track and communicate with an aircraft that violated the temporary flight restriction that had been put into effect in and around the Oklahoma City metro area and the Cushing vicinity. As it turned out, the aircraft had not been a threat.

The Oklahoma Wing of Civil Air Patrol supported the event with missions flown by CAP members Maj. Rob Greenwood, Maj. Gary Medina of Norman, and Capt. Joe Rathert of Oklahoma City, with support from Maj. James Beauchamp and Lt. Col. Ed Angala, both of Oklahoma City.

"We wanted to make sure we conducted this mission to the best of our mission capability," said Angala, incident commander for the mission. "That way, it will help expand the ever-growing missions that Civil Air Patrol can perform nationwide." This mission request was fulfilled by Oklahoma Wing volunteers, without needing to resort to more expensive means of monitoring. The all-volunteer force of Civil Air Patrol, using the Oklahoma Wing's nine aircraft, saved taxpayers thousands of dollars in performing this important mission. 🇺🇸



With Marine One in the background, (L-R) Daniel Lee, Seth Behrens, Cadet 2nd Lt. Blake Benard, Cadet 2nd Lt. Daniel Riley, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Hicks, Cadet Tech Sgt. Stephan Kepczyk, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Lacy, Cadet Staff Sgt. Simeon Moseley, Cadet Airman Ethan Birnbaum, Cadet Airman 1st Class Tristan Alberts, Cadet Airman Roth Northon, and Cadet Airman Kimberly Tobias. (Photo: Sgt. John Horne, CAP)

Arizona Wing Cadets Get to See Marine One

by Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – Arizona Wing cadets and senior members of the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 had a surprise opportunity to view Marine One, the Presidential helicopter that was hangared at the Arizona Air National Guard base during President Barak Obama's visit to the Valley last January 2012.

The aircraft was a VH-60N "Whitehawk" twin engine all-weather helicopter that features a fully soundproofed cabin area so the president and passengers do not need to use headsets to communicate. This fleet of Sikorsky helicopters is assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps' HMX-1 unit based in Quantico, Va., and any helicopter that carries the President of the United States uses the call sign "Marine One." When it carries the vice president, the call sign is "Marine Two."

The CAP members' visit was arranged by Lt. Col. Alan Kirksey, ANG Base Transportation Officer of the 131st Air Refueling Squadron, Arizona Air National Guard. 🇺🇸



New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith addresses the cadets on character being linked to core values. (All Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel)

New Mexico Wing Character Day Shows Cadets Alternatives to Drugs

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Don't even think about doing drugs, and you can be a superhero—that was the message delivered to more than 50 cadets at the New Mexico Wing Character Day, held at Temple Baptist Academy in Albuquerque on Feb. 25, 2012. The sponsors of the event were Capt. Robert Thompson, New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs, and Maj. Donna Bracken, New Mexico Wing Drug Demand Reduction Administrator.

New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith told the cadets that character consists of being able to make wise choices in all areas of life. "The character that you have is based on CAP's Core Values," he said (integrity, respect, volunteer service and excellence in all we do).

The first speakers of the day, FBI Agents Bryan Ragan and Marcus Washington, talked about career opportunities available through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and how those opportunities could be cut short through even casual drug use. Ragan cautioned the cadets, "You can't be in the Bureau and do drugs." He went on to say that people who even experiment with drugs are immediately disqualified from further consideration of employment with the Bureau.

Agent Washington, an Albuquerque Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) officer for the past three and a half years, talked about the importance of physical fitness, since tactical gear can



Col. Thomas Vertriglia, USAF, commander of the 377th Maintenance Group at Kirtland Air Force Base, explains the importance of bearing and attitude on a person's character.

weigh upwards of 50 pounds. "You've got to be in pretty good shape," said Washington, referring to the demands of his job.

The next speaker, U.S. Air Force Col. Thomas Vertriglia, commander of Kirtland Air Force Base's 377th Maintenance Group, explained that an individual's attitude and bearing play an important part in determining a person's character. "How we act sometimes influences who we are," Vertriglia said. He went on to commend the cadets for the choice they made in attending the Saturday event. "You're all superheroes," he said. "You're here on your Saturday, when you could be sleeping in and watching cartoons, because you want to make a difference."

Following Vertriglia's presentation, U. S. Marshal Mitch Varley talked about the purpose and scope of the marshal's office. "We're the sheriff of the federal government," he said. The primary duties of the U.S. Marshal include fugitive investigations, where the majority of fugitives arrested are drug fugitives. "Drugs are involved in almost every case I've worked on," Varley said, adding how much drug use has affected popular culture. "The impact of drugs is everywhere," he said.

After a short lunch break, the last presentation of the day was from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit. Deputy David Littlefield, with his partner Tessie, an eight-and-a-half-year-old German Shepherd, talked about his partner's duties as a patrol dog and human remains dog, which are to find criminals and locate human remains. Most patrol dogs enjoy a useful career of about three to six years, so Littlefield also introduced Tessie's replacement, Phoenix, a two-year-old Belgian Tervuren that is completing its basic training. As soon as it is certified, Tessie will be retired – and Littlefield will adopt it as a pet.

Deputy Tim Miller and his partner Longo, a six-year-old Belgian Malinois, talked about Longo's duties as a drug detection dog. Unlike Littlefield, who may work with other law enforcement

agencies, Miller usually works alone. The largest narcotics find that he and Longo made has been 60 kilograms of cocaine, with a street value of \$100 million.

After Miller showed cadets how criminals can hide drugs from the law, he put Longo through its paces: it found 3.5 grams of methamphetamine and 1.8 grams of cocaine that Miller had hidden in the school gymnasium. Upon finding the drugs, Miller rewarded it with a chew toy.

"Once she gets the reward, she's no longer interested in finding the drugs" Miller said.

Following the presentation by Littlefield and Miller, cadets had a chance to work off their lunch by either playing basketball in the gym or running an inflatable obstacle course in the school parking lot. Participants received certificates that could be presented at their squadron meetings. The day was a perfect summary of CAP's Drug Demand Reduction motto: "Follow your Dream and Stay Clean." 🇺🇸



Above right: FBI Agent Marcus Washington shows his heavy SWAT tactical gear.

Below: Bernalillo County Sheriff's Deputy David Littlefield with his partner Phoenix, a two-year-old Belgian Tervuren.





Top: At mission Base, Public Information Officer Capt. Rick Rutledge, Incident Commander Lt. Col. Ed Angala, Mission Pilot Lt. Col. Rayford K. Brown, Mission Pilot Capt. Danny Dunlap, Managing Search/Operations Lt. Col. Bruce Sheppard, and Planning Section Chief Lt. Col. Don Ross working in mission base. (Photos: Capt. Rick Rutledge, CAP)

Oklahoma and Arkansas Wings Stage Joint Search and Rescue Exercise

by Capt. Rick Rutledge, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – During the weekend of March 24-25, 2012, nearly 100 volunteer Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members from Oklahoma Wing and Arkansas Wing units converged on Muskogee's Davis Field Airport for joint training in emergency and disaster relief missions.

With 12 total aircraft, eight from Oklahoma Wing and four from Arkansas Wing, alongside multiple ground units, the members received extensive training in Aerial Photography, Search and Rescue, Homeland Security and Disaster Assessment.

Both Civil Air Patrol wings conduct this training several times annually, but rarely do the wings pool their training resources for this kind of exercise. "This was a unique opportunity for our




mission staffs to practice integrating external personnel and assets to accomplish missions for the citizens of our respective states,” said Lt. Col. Don Ross of Lawton who served as the mission’s planning section chief. “We have identified and overcome previously unanticipated challenges of assimilating outside personnel and equipment not normally under our control. These issues were both operational and administrative.”

These volunteers regularly perform missions in support of the United States Air Force, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security, other federal organizations, and a number of state and local agencies.

“The valuable lessons we learned during several nationwide incidents – notably the search for Steve Fossett and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina – caused Civil Air Patrol to standardize all training requirements across the nation so that CAP can perform its missions exceptionally,” said Ross. “The next step was to integrate our training with other wings, in the event that we’re called upon to work together when lives are at stake.”

Pursuing the goal of achieving standard training for federal emergency services missions, CAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FEMA, thereby agreeing to standardize its own training with that of FEMA’s. The end result is that CAP members train according to the training requirements needed to satisfy National Incident Management System standards. This kind of training and certification provide a set of credentials that identify individual members for nationally-recognized specific NIMS/FEMA working positions.

During Air Force-assigned missions, CAP operates as the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, the civilian non-combatant arm of the Air Force routinely used for emergency deployment in the United States. CAP wings normally establish a presence at their respective Emergency Operations Center, where they integrate themselves into the total effort required to help achieve recovery after an emergency or disaster alongside local, state and federal EOC members.

The all-volunteer Civil Air Patrol members, along with CAP’s more than 550 4-seat Cessna aircraft and Gippsland GA-8 special-purpose aircraft, save taxpayers thousands of dollars when called upon by these partner agencies. 

Below: Mission Pilot Lt. Col. Rayford K. Brown conducts a pre-flight inspection on his aircraft before flying a sortie.





Top: Group V Commander Lt. Col. Ed Billman and Incident Commander Maj. Josh Schmidt discuss the day's activities.
Below: CAP members get ready for flight-line marshaling training. (All photos: Capt. Nancy Kerr)

Texas Wing's Group V Search and Rescue Exercise

by Capt. Nancy Kerr, CAP, Texas Wing

SAN ANTONIO – On Jan. 28, 2012, Group V hosted an incident command post (ICP) at Stinson Municipal Airport during a Wing-wide Area Command Exercise. Approximately 85 CAP members signed in to participate in the emergency services training exercise. During the opening briefing, Group V Commander Lt. Col. Ed Billman thanked those present for being there and encouraged each member to get as much training done during the mission as possible. Maj. Josh Schmidt, Incident Commander at the Group V ICP, kicked-off the exercise for the day.



The

At mission base, Maj. Robert Howard, Group V Communications Officer, performed mission radio operator duties while Capt. Nancy Kerr took notes and captured the event with her camera. Lt. Col. Joyce Sean Habina flew as mission scanner with 1st Lt. Kathleen Gose as mission observer on one of the many sorties performed that day with pilot Maj. Chuck Tetlow. For many of the volunteers, the mission lasted into the evening. The training mission success was measured by the many tasks completed by CAP members.



CAP cadets from the San Antonio, College Station and San Marcos areas gained valuable training experience and were eager to learn and participate. First item on the agenda was Lt. Col. Rich Ferguson who taught the cadets flight-line marshaling skills. After lunch, Capt. Scott Wylie, Capt. Peter Passarelli and 2nd Lt. Robert King accompanied the cadets during a practice search for an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). The cadets succeeded in finding the beacon in a large wooded area behind the mission base building.

Flight-time funds were depleted on the first day, thanks to excellent weather and the number of successful sorties flown. On the following day, a ferry flight was flown from Stinson Municipal Airport to Houston Hobby Airport in order to practice mid-air collision avoidance maneuvers and pick up a new vehicle that needed ferrying back to San Antonio.

By the end of the exercise, many Specialty Qualification Training Record (SQTR) tasks had been completed, enhancing the wing's ability to perform during an emergency. 🇺🇸

Top: Cadets found the beacon and duly recorded its information, enabling them to report a successful find.

Below: Maj. Chuck Tetlow and his aircrew plan a sortie.





Top: New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith, front row center, and course director 1st Lt. Nicki L. Voights, back row left, pose with the graduating class of the first-ever Monday night Squadron Leadership School.

Below: Lt. Col. Sharon Lane, Southwest Region Inspector General, addresses a seminar. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel)

New Mexico Wing Flex-Time Squadron Leadership School

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — In a break with tradition, New Mexico Wing implemented its first-ever Monday evening Squadron Leadership School. Beginning on Jan. 23, 2012 and concluding on Feb. 13, senior members attended four successive Monday nights of training, instead of the traditional weekend. Course director 1st Lt. Nicki L. Voights said, “We wanted to give senior members a choice, so that they wouldn’t have to give up an entire weekend to complete their training.”

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Fifteen senior members — six of them from Eagle Cadet Squadron — took advantage of the Monday evening training.

Lt. Col. Sharon Lane, Southwest Region Inspector General and one of the seminar leaders, praised the sharpness of the group. “CAP is very, very lucky to have you in this organization,” she said. In his closing remarks, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark E. Smith told the graduates, “You all are the Wing leadership in the next few years.”

Course graduate Senior Member Tori Pilcher of Eagle Cadet Squadron summed it up best by saying, “The things we are learning here, we’re instilling in our cadets. We’re training our future leaders here.” 🇺🇸





(Photo: Capt. Michael Maynard, CAP)

Arkansas Wing Showcases Aerospace Education Programs

by Capt. Michael Maynard, CAP, Arkansas Wing

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – During February 2012, Arkansas Wing showcased its Aerospace Education mission to several Central Arkansas organizations. On Feb. 6, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) conducted a safety seminar for 141 pilots and visitors at the Arkansas Wing Headquarters. Attendees viewed a display showcasing the model rocketry, robotics, and model aircraft remote control (MARC) programs. The display drew about 40 participants who asked numerous questions about CAP and how to involve schools in CAP's Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program. Also of interest was the Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) program or an after-school outreach program. Included in the display were a remote-control General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon and its controller, a computer running the "E-Sky" remote-control simulator software that allowed visitors to practice remote-control flying, and a balsa-wood airplane powered by a rubber band.

Besides the MARC display, the discipline of robotics was showcased with a LEGO® Mindstorm® NXT 2.0 forklift robot built by a first-grade student and programmed by a second-grade student from Crestwood Elementary School in North Little Rock. This student project was part of the after-school robotics outreach program funded by the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium (ASGC). Model rocketry was also displayed with rockets built by the Crestwood Elementary School students and CAP cadets of Little Rock's 42nd Composite Squadron. A CAP rocketry video was available for viewing on the monitor.

On Feb. 9, the display was set up at the Michael W. Ray VFW Post in Jacksonville, Ark. to show post members the wing's aerospace mission to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in order to secure future grant funding. The display was a big hit, and VFW members asked many questions about CAP and how it is making an impact in local communities.

On Feb. 11, the display was showcased at the Arkansas VFW Mid-Winter Conference in Little Rock. The purpose of the exhibit was to help VFW members and their families become more aware of Arkansas Wing's Aerospace Education mission. The display was seen by more than 1,000 attendees. 🇺🇸



Arizona Wing Squadron Tours Sky Harbor Facilities

by Maj. Phil Hubacek, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On Feb. 9, 2012, sixteen members of the Scottsdale Senior Squadron 314 toured the Phoenix Sky Harbor FAA Control Tower and Phoenix Terminal Radar Control (TRACON) facilities. The tour was arranged by Maj. Phil Hubacek, the unit's Aerospace Education Officer.

Mel Johnson, Dewey Malmin, and Steve Morris – all of whom conducted the tour – are retired FAA controllers currently employed by Raytheon as controller instructors under contract with the FAA. Their expertise enhanced the experience of viewing and understanding the spaceship-like environment of the tower and radar control complex. This knowledge was especially helpful when control novices such as the visitors were straining to understand the multitude of high-tech monitors, displays, and display controls.

Through display manipulations, visitors were shown the difference between full radar/transponder/computer data presentations and what controller screens looked like with varying degrees of simulated radar and computer data failure. At any given time, over 100 aircraft returns were crawling across the screens, emphasizing the awareness and orientation difficulty involved in considering the associated altitudes, airspeed, and computer flight plan information that must not be lost.

It was interesting to see the complexity of the KPHX terminal airspace boundaries and altitude constraints, and the challenges these "boxes" place on the controllers' task to maintain safe separations. The addition of stormy weather can inject considerable complexity into the task. The guides expressed deep appreciation for the technology available to them – paid for by the American taxpayer – that is much better than European equivalents. The cave-like environment of the monitor-filled TRACON room was in stark contrast with the eye-in-the-sky control tower on a sunny afternoon.

The view from the over-300 ft. tower was spectacular, but controllers were busy focusing on Ground Control and Tower Control duties. The guides explained runway usage patterns as well as procedures used for runway direction changes caused by wind shifts. Of particular interest was the discussion of the impact that Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Transition routes – which cross through the busy airspace – have on airport operations.

The tour was interesting and informative, adding new insight into and appreciation for the anonymous voices at the other end of the microphone. The Raytheon and FAA effort to support the tour is bound to make CAP crewmembers more aware, and safer, when they take to the skies across the nation. 🇺🇸



Cadets from the Kingwood-based Marauder Composite Squadron survey the food goods they collected on behalf of the Society of St. Stephen. (L-R) Cadet Airman Fabian Renderos, Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Clay Yoder, Cadet Capt. Brandon Cambio, Cadet Sr. Airman Scott Barber, Cadet Airman Jonathan Krouse and Cadet Airman James Meaux. (Photo: Capt. Glenn Shellhouse)

Texas Cadets Help Replenish Food Bank

by 2nd Lt. Brenda Williams, CAP, Texas Wing

KINGWOOD, Texas – Civil Air Patrol cadets from Marauder Composite Squadron knocked on doors throughout Kingwood asking residents to contribute canned foods during the squadron's day-long annual food drive. The donations, nearly 400 food items, were used to replenish the Society of St. Stephen Food Bank, which supplies local families throughout the year.

"We purchase most of our food from the Houston Food Bank, but we always appreciate and need the supplemented food donated from area schools, groups and organizations at different times of the year," said Society of St. Stephen Director Lynn Harper. "It is especially meaningful for us to have youth participate in collecting food for our clients because I believe it lays the groundwork for a heart of service," she added.

In addition to food, the Society of St. Stephen also provides clothing and limited financial assistance. "We see about 40 families each day, and we probably give each family 10 to 12 items," said Harper, "so you could guess that comes to about one day's supply. That doesn't seem like a lot, but it adds up,"

Harper observed that, although the numbers served by her charity have remained about the same – about 400 families per month – "what we are seeing is more numbers of middle-class families coming for help," a nationwide trend.

"I thought that CAP might be fun, so I convinced my parents to let me join, and I was right about the fun part," commented Cadet Airman James Meaux, a student at Creekwood Middle School who volunteered for the food drive. "My favorite part of CAP so far has been the flying and all the friends I've met."

The annual food drive is one of many activities the squadron uses to encourage leadership, self-discipline and community service. 🇺🇸



Top: Wing Commander Col. Mark Smith watches as Encampment Commander Lt. Col. Bob Ross presents Cadet 2nd Lt. Michael R. Eckert (at right) the award as cadet commander of the Honor Flight at the 2011 New Mexico Wing Winter Encampment. (Photos: Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Dakota Sidden, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Winter Encampment

by Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Dakota Sidden, CAP, New Mexico Wing

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. – Under the eyes of encampment commander Lt. Col. Bob Ross and deputy commander Maj. Kathy Courreges, cadets from Texas, Wyoming and Arizona Wings joined New Mexico in making the winter encampment of 2011 successful and beneficial for all cadets.

Held during the week of Dec. 26-31, 2011, cadets were billeted at the National Guard Armory on Wyoming Street, with classes held at Kirtland Air Force Base. The wing was grateful to both the National Guard and the Air Force for making these facilities available.

Mornings began at 6:00 a.m. as cadets experienced CAP and the Air Force at their best. Drill and ceremonies formed the basis of cadet training on the first day. Both the encampment commander and deputy commander outlined their expectations of cadet behavior during their week at the encampment.

For the next five days, the cadets' organization and time management skills were put to the test. Cadets toured the control tower of the Albuquerque Sunport and received briefings on both the CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and the HH-60 "Pave Hawk" helicopter.

Former cadets 1st Lt. Dustin T. Wittman and Capt. Daniel J. Bracken gave presentations on aerospace education and cadet programs. Maj. Donna Bracken gave a presentation on drug demand reduction.

At the end of the week, parents witnessed the graduation parade as the cadets passed in review. New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith presented awards to cadets and senior members for outstanding duty performance. 🇺🇸





Linda Mills, (extreme right), corporate vice president and president, Northrop Grumman Information Systems, pictured above with students and coaches from the Alamo Academies High School team, San Antonio that won first place at the CyberPatriot IV National Finals Competition on March 23. Cadet Kenny Bias is fifth from left. Also pictured are (L-R) Bernie Skoch, Commissioner, CyberPatriot, AFA and Sandy Schlitt, Chairman of the Board, AFA. (Photo: Northrop Grumman Corp.)

Texas Wing Cadet in Winning Team at 2012 CyberPatriot IV Competition

by Capt. Morgan Montalvo, CAP, Texas Wing

SAN ANTONIO – On March 23, 2012, Cadet Airman Kenny Bias – a member of the Tex Hill Composite Squadron, Texas Wing, who joined Civil Air Patrol (CAP) last October, 2011 – earned top honors as a member of America's top-ranked CyberPatriot IV team.

Cadet Bias and five colleagues from the Alamo Colleges Information Technology and Security Academy (ITSA) won the number one spot in CyberPatriot's Open Division and were named overall winners after a five-hour competition – the final round of the event – held in Washington, D.C. at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. Bias competed in the Open Division, that consisted of teams from public or private schools. A military-connected All-Service Division included Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and CAP teams. The event was created by the Air Force Association.

The “Wolfpack,” a CAP CyberPatriot team from the Colorado Cadet Squadron, Colorado Springs, Colo. ranked first in the All-Services Division. However, the Alamo Colleges group, calling themselves “Team Unknown,” posted the highest overall score.

Bias had been participating in the CyberPatriot competition since it was first created in 2008. He is part of a five-cadet Tex Hill Composite Squadron remote flight that meets at St Philip's College Southwest Campus in San Antonio. The cadets are earning their high school diplomas concurrently with Associate's degrees at St. Philip's, and receiving high school social studies elective credit for their participation in CAP's Cadet Program. Capt. Morgan Montalvo serves as their economics lecturer and CAP instructor. Bias plans to continue with, and put his information technology skills to work for, CAP as a senior member when he graduates in June.

“Team Unknown” brought home to San Antonio the President's Trophy, after having enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to the Nation's Capital. “Wolfpack” members took home to Colorado



st Region, April 2012

Springs the Commander in Chief's Trophy. The purpose of the competition was to keep a team of professional hackers from penetrating the team's computer defenses.

On the evening of March 23, 2012, the top three teams of each division were announced during a banquet. They will receive more than \$50,000 in college scholarships from the Northrop Grumman Foundation, CyberPatriot's presenting sponsor.

Left: Cadet Kenny Bias prepares to stem off a cyber attack. (Photo: Capt. Morgan Montalvo)

Below: Sandra Evers-Manly, vice president, Corporate Responsibility and president of the Northrop Grumman Foundation, presented more than \$50,000 in scholarships to students on the winning teams of the CyberPatriot IV National Finals Competition. Evers-Manly presents the check to Sandy Schlitt, Chairman of the Board, Air Force Association, organizers of CyberPatriot IV. (Photo: Northrop Grumman Corp.)

Since cybersecurity is currently a much sought-after skill – especially in government and the military – the winning team members are certain to receive attractive offers and be able to take advantage of unique opportunities.

"The competition was pretty scary," said Bias, who recently turned 18 and has been a CAP cadet for only 5 months. "There were six teams from Spokane, Wash. that made it to Nationals, and MIT's Lincoln Laboratories were there also. Those were the opponents that intimidated us at first."

"We were recognized by Texas Governor Rick Perry, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, and a lot of industry leaders, like Northrop Grumman," Bias said. Castro was among those on hand at San Antonio International Airport for the March 25 evening homecoming.

The four-round competition – that started in October 2011 – had in excess of 1,000 teams competing for the top prize. Every state in the Union, plus Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific were represented. Bias confirmed that the activity involved protecting, or "hardening" computer operating systems against hacking, and required students to "think offensively and defensively at the same time."





Top: Anthem School's Principal Pat Yennie at the Honeywell International display.

Below: Cadet Airman 1st Class Chance Jurgens with student Helium 3 display. (Photos: Maj. Phil Hubacek, CAP)

Anthem Elementary and AZ Wing Celebrate STEM Night

by Maj. Phil Hubacek, CAP, Arizona Wing

FLORENCE, Ariz. – On Jan. 26, 2012, Anthem Elementary School was joined by members of the Arizona Wing staff to celebrate their annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Night. The event was provided to bring academic and industry partner technology exhibits to the school and public, and to display the students' STEM talents to their parents, teachers, and peers.

Anthem Principal Pat Yennie and Deer Valley Composite Squadron Cadet Airman 1st Class Chance Jurgens escorted Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Paul Rehman, Wing Director





of Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Fred Seifritz, and Wing Deputy Director of Aerospace Education Maj. Phil Hubacek through the cafeteria and classrooms that were filled with displays and student-created technology exhibits.

On hand to support the event were Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University unmanned aerial vehicles and rocketry teams, Honeywell

International, Boulder Creek High School robotics team, the Arizona State University Astro Club, and Phoenix Astronomical Society members that provided star and planet gazing through six large telescopes.

The well-attended event saw students displaying their recent technology inventions and projects. Many exhibits were those that had been entered in the December, 2011 science competition sponsored by Honeywell – a competition for plans and models of proposed lunar bases for the manned exploration and mining of Helium 3.

It also was an excellent evening for viewing a crescent moon, Jupiter and its moons, Venus, and the Orion Nebula.

Principal Yennie said, "I'm proud of the students and teachers," who have used Civil Air Patrol aerospace education materials to form the school's Aerospace Academy and Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program. "The school has been so successful with their ACE program that they were named by CAP National Headquarters and the Air Force Association as ACE School Program of the Year for 2010-2011," he added, "an achievement reflected in this evening's event."

Arizona Wing members will continue to support the Anthem School in their success. 🇺🇸

Top: Cadet Jurgens gets some questions answered at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University rocketry display.

Right: Visitors enjoy the diverse student STEM displays.





(Photos: 2nd Lt. Michael Bernier, CAP)

Texas Cadets Participate In Re-opening Of Local Museum

by 2nd Lt. Michael Bernier, CAP, Texas Wing

DENISON, Texas – On March 17, 2012, Texoma Composite Squadron cadets performed a flag-raising ceremony as part of a day-long celebration marking the re-opening of the Sam Rayburn House Museum in Bonham, Texas.

Rayburn (1882-1961) – known simply as “Mr. Sam” to local residents – was one of the most influential and powerful politicians of the 20th century. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 48 years, 17 of them as Speaker of the House – longer than anyone else ever. Following his death, his home was deeded to the State of Texas and turned into a museum.

The house was closed to visitors in March 2011 for extensive renovations. As the museum staff began to plan the re-opening, they contacted the squadron to request a Cadet Honor Guard to open the ceremonies by raising the U.S. and Texas flags.

“Our Cadets participated in a previous event at the Sam Rayburn House, and the museum staff was very impressed with their professionalism,” said Capt. Timothy Wilson, the squadron’s Deputy Commander for Cadets. “They did not hesitate to invite us back for the museum’s re-opening.”

Following the ceremonies, the cadets and senior members accompanying them were given a personal tour of the house by a member of the museum’s staff, and then treated to refreshments. They also met State Senator Robert Deuell, one of the many dignitaries who participated in the event. 🇺🇸



My Page

Meditations on Memorial Day

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas – Every American ought to know what Memorial Day stands for, especially in today's relaxed environment when some look upon it as their chance to enjoy themselves in various ways. Shopping, enjoying a family barbeque, and watching the Indianapolis 500 seem to be popular activities. Some of us, on the other hand, are honor-bound to devote some time to reflect upon our many blessings.

One of America's fundamental freedoms is the right to free expression, as guaranteed by our Constitution. Many people take advantage of it, occasionally listing a catalog of peeves. It is easy to complain, as human beings are fallible and there is no perfect government on Earth. At times, their kind of freedom of expression seems to lament a national malaise that augurs poorly for America.

Yet, our national borders are assailed daily by the poor and destitute who seek entering the country, albeit illegally, in search of a better life. To them, in spite of its faults – often headlined on the news –, America is their chosen hope in their effort to break away from tyranny, poverty, lack of opportunity and constant discrimination. They take this desperate step, fraught with danger that often leads to death, because entering legally is far from easy, as the legal path requires a long waiting list in the hopes of getting an immigrant's visa.

I got one as a very young man, and with my green card in hand proceeded to make a new life

for myself. Naturally, I took the oath of naturalization as soon as the law allowed me to.

During my life in the United States I served in the U.S. Army, drafted as a private and retiring with a commission. This gave me a very personal perspective on the meaning of Memorial Day. Personally, I set it aside for the memory of those who never returned, or came back broken in some way. These are my buddies, even though I've known personally but a few of them. And they all live in my heart.

Left: Arlington National Cemetery
(Photo: Remember)

There is a reason why America is sought by so many as their last resort of opportunity. Ours is a nation of laws, and we (for the most part) obey those laws. Those who break the law eventually get caught and pay for it, with the unintended benefit to the nation of serving as a living example for others who might consider doing the same.





Above: Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. (Photo: U.S. Government)

America is universally hailed as the land of the free, though that freedom is delimited by laws. The main difference between our laws and those of totalitarian regimes is that ours are written by our elected officials – whose mandate is to represent us and look after our interests – rather than a system at the personal service of an autocrat who makes no room for such freedom.

Our freedoms, those of the land of the free, were never free for the taking. From the very beginning they took effort and abnegation, nurtured along by those willing to get it done, thereby giving birth to the home of the brave.

Our freedoms have been purchased with very dear coin: the life and personal sacrifice of those who fought to earn them, preserve them, and continue to defend them through the years. From the War of Independence until today, it is estimated that 1,343,812 Americans have lost their life in combat. This is a remarkable figure. The City of Dallas has a population slightly larger than that, but not by much. Imagine the City of Dallas being snuffed out, uprooted, flattened out, devastated, and even turned into a gigantic and featureless graveyard. But the population of Dallas includes children and people past the age of military service too, so the city's demographics don't quite match that of those who lost their life in combat.

On average, an American city is populated by about 38% children and dependents, but the adult population is counted as being between the ages of 15 and 64. The military, on the other hand, are aged between 17 and 60... Therefore, using the total population of Dallas for comparison does not accurately represent the demographics of those who died in combat.

There is an even greater number of wounded, as that figure for the same period is estimated at 1,529,230 (heavily weighed towards more recent years, when our ability to render aid and evacuate promptly resulted in a much greater chance of survival for those wounded in the battlefield). Of the survivors, some of the maimed and wounded are unable to earn a living because of their injuries. Many live in constant pain, both physical and psychological. Some even wish they had not survived.

To be fair, we need to keep in mind that the continuing reality of our freedoms has been procured at the cost of over 2.8 million dead and wounded. For the sake of comparison, the City of Houston has an estimated population of 2.1 million.

In years past, after the Selective Service Act was enacted in 1917, practically everyone served in the armed forces for at least two years. But although the Selective Service System is still in place, the military has been an all-volunteer force since 1969. Counting a generation as a 25-year period, that is almost two generations ago. During this period, only volunteers served in the military.

For me, it is a sobering thought that the world I lived in – and in some manner helped create – is now taught as history in America's classrooms. My memories and my thoughts and actions in reaction to what happened is now the subject of “blah electives” at learning institutions that – for the most part – fruitlessly try to impart an education on students only interested in a good grade.

The new student ethic is not directed towards acquiring knowledge but achieving grade point average. Indeed, their GPA is all-important to them, and college rumor mills are constantly trawled for “easy graders.” A high GPA is sure to lead to graduate school, a better degree, and its attendant higher wages.

Our culture has transitioned from what in my youth was called “the protestant work ethic” into the supremely cynical anything-goes of “it's OK to do it, provided you can get away with it.”

Would those 2.8 million battle dead and wounded understand this new world? Maybe the latest in the long line, who are now beginning to return from the front lines in the Persian Gulf, but definitely not the veterans of WWII, Korea, or even Vietnam.

In Civil Air Patrol we are privileged to play an important mentoring role on American youth who choose to join us. I have seen them come into CAP as naïve and ordinary children, who then develop into upright young men and women. I have seen them take their lessons to heart and work diligently at cumulative small triumphs, some reaching the pinnacle of CAP cadet life: the Spaatz award.

These Spaatzes are CAP's cadet elite, imbued with the idea of honor, duty, respect and service. These are the future leaders of America, and the hope of a nation that at times seems to have lost its way. Not every cadet will reach this pinnacle, but there are many who try. In the process, their character and interpersonal skills are channeled towards the common good and, whether Spaatzes or not, they all benefit.

Some CAP cadets might become educators, and in turn improve our educational system, helping future generations reach for the gold of a cultured mind and selfless service. Others will opt for becoming health practitioners, and this would be a good thing, as some of them will be looking after my own wellbeing one of these days.

These cadets also realize the importance of being there and ready when needed. They view history as a living timeline with its challenges and triumphs, lessons and heartaches. Some of their mentors have been part of that past. And whoever they are, wherever they go, they will remember what the real meaning of Memorial Day is. 🇺🇸

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NOTE: The opinions expressed in the editorial above are the sole responsibility of the author's, and they do not necessarily represent the official position of Civil Air Patrol.